



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## TUTU ASSAILS FOREIGN FIRMS

JOHANNESBURG, S.A. -- A leading black churchman has stated again that foreign companies which operate in South Africa contribute to the destruction of black family life and help maintain the apartheid system.

The Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, made the charge at a 50th anniversary session of the South African Institute of Race Relations. Bishop Tutu, a native of South Africa, was Anglican Dean of Johannesburg and then Bishop of Lesotho before assuming the ecumenical post.

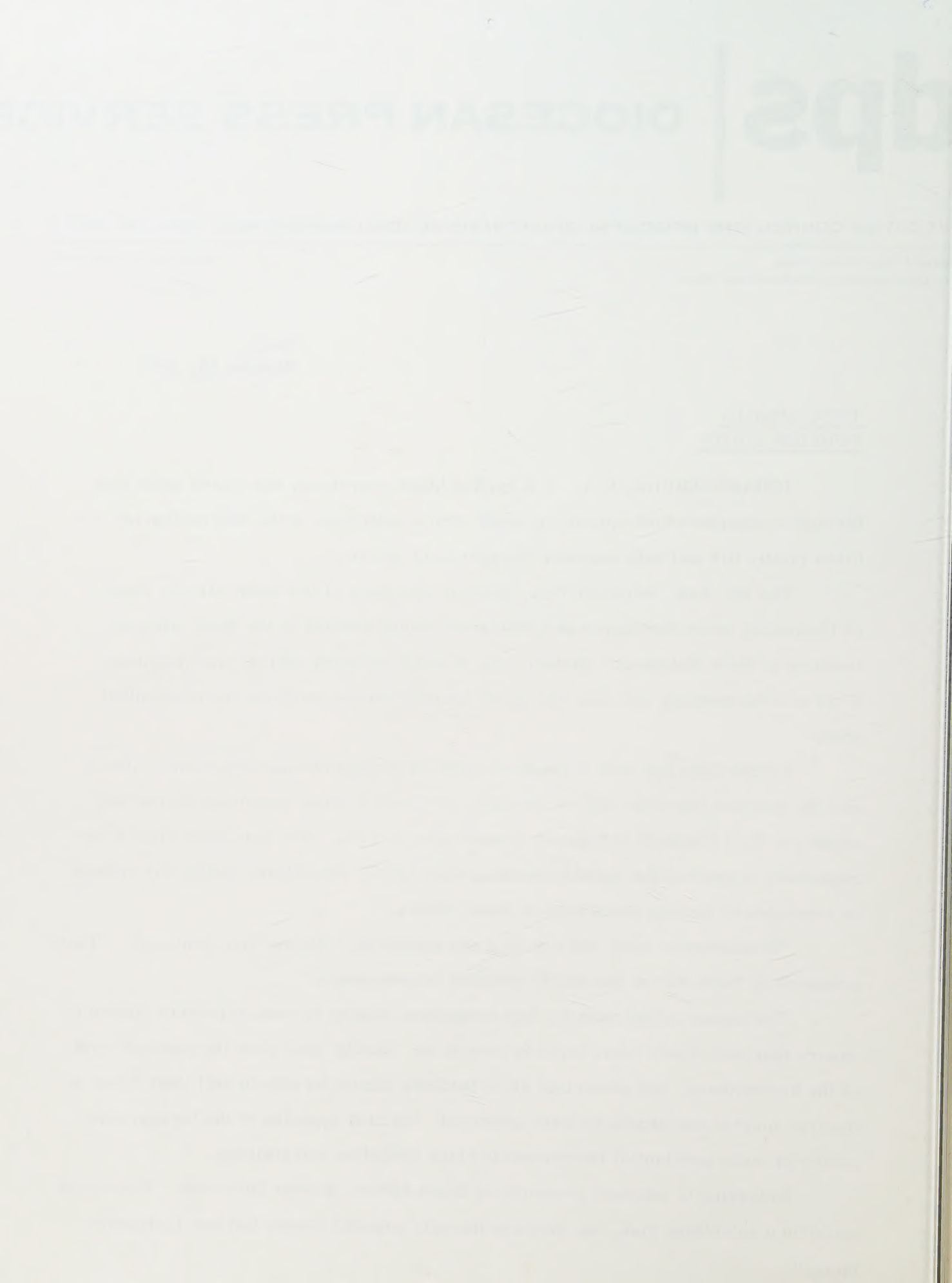
Bishop Tutu has been a longtime critic of foreign investment in South Africa and the position won wide support among black South African Anglicans during that country's first Partners in Mission Consultation in 1976. The Episcopal Church has repeatedly supported the stand by backing shareholder resolutions calling for reform or cessation of foreign investment in South Africa.

"Businessmen must not say they are apolitical," Bishop Tutu declared. "Their presence in South Africa has highly political consequences."

The bishop called upon foreign companies wishing to remain in South Africa to ensure that their black labor force is housed as family units near the place of work of the breadwinner, and added that black workers should be able to sell their labor in the free market and should be fully unionised. He also appealed to the foreign companies to make substantial investment in black education and training.

Referring to external pressure on South Africa, Bishop Tutu said: "Pressures could be a calculated risk, but they are the only peaceful means left and I advocate them."

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He dismissed the argument that pressures from outside South Africa would hurt most those whom they were intended to help, the blacks.

"It is true blacks would be among the first to suffer, and yet are they living in comfort now?" he asked. "Most blacks argue it would be far better to suffer for change than to go on suffering interminably."

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